

## Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

DOT-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 CIEP-01 FAA-00 PA-01 USIA-06

PRS-01 SS-15 NSC-05 /052 W  
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R 041954Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1236

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRIDGETOWN 1486

EO 11652:GDS

TAGS: PINS, EAIR, BB, CU, AO

SUBJECT: CUBAN AIRLINE'S BARBADOS OPERATION

1. ACCORDING LOCAL SOURCES OF UNCONFIRMED RELIABILITY, CUBANA HAS BECOME (OR AT LEAST ITS STAFF HERE IS SAYING IT HAS BECOME) DISSATISFIED WITH BWIA'S HANDLING OF RESERVATIONS, TICKETING, AND GROUND PROCESSING FOR SCHEDULED CUBANA FLIGHTS. (ONE REASON CITED FOR CUBANA'S UNHAPPINESS IS ALLEGED FACT ITS PASSENGER MANIFESTS -- INCLUDING NAMES OF INTRANSIT PASSENGERS-- ARE BEING PHOT-COPIED BY BWIA EMPLOYEES.) REPORTEDLY, AS A RESULT CUBANA INTENDS TO INCREASE ITS CUBAN STAFF AND DIRECT HIRE ENOUGH BARBADIANS TO BECOME SELF-SUFFICIENT. AS A FIRST STEP, A "SENIOR CUBANA OFFICIAL", NAME UNKNOWN, IS SUPPOSED TO ARRIVE IN BARBADOS SOMETIME WEEK OF 9-15 AUGUST TO TAKE CHARGE. A THIRD COUNTRY SOURCE DESCRIBES THE UNNAMED CUBAN AS "AN AIRLINE OFFICIAL WHO REALLY ISN'T" AND SAYS THE INDIVIDUAL IS PRESENTLY IN KINGSTON.

2. COMMENT: CUBANA'S OPERATION HERE IS HEADED BY ELISO MATOS (SPELLING ON GOB DOCUMENTS) WHO TOOK OVER FORMALLY ON 29 DECEMBER 1975, FROM RAUL PEREZ MAILLARES WHO ORIGINALLY RESITERED COMPANY ON 8 JULY 1974. MILLARES, DESCRIBED AS NOW BASED IN KINGSTON, IS FREQUENTLY IN BARBADOS. CUBANA STAFF ALSO APPEARS TO INCLUDE TWO ADDITIONAL CUBANS, NAMES  
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UNKNOWN, WHO WORK IN THE AIRPORT OFFICE. MATOS LIVES WITH

HIS "WIFE" (ACCORDING IMMIGRATION RECORD HERE THEY'RE NOT MARRIED) IN A HOUSE ORIGINALLY ACQUIRED BY MILLARES. SPANISH-SPEAKING RESIDENTS HERE SAY "MRS." MATOS FREELY DISCUSSES DETAILS OF AIRLINES OPERATIONS, MATOS BY CONTRAST IS TIGHT-LIPPED. BASED ON CASUAL OBSERVATION, MATOS APPEARS TO SPEND LITTLE TIME AT HOME, ENTERTAIN NOT AT JLL. WHEN WE'VE SEEN HIM IN THE EVENINGS HE'S USUALLY BEEN WITH A SMALL SPANISH SPEAKING GROUP. MATOS IS REPORTED TO HAVE MADE A RECENT TRIP TO DOMINICA.

3. UNDER PRESENT BWIA/CUBANA ARRANGEMENTS THE CUBAN STAFF EFFORT REQUIRED TO SUPPORT CUBANA'S OPERATIONS, BOTH SCHEDULE AND ANGOLA FLIGHTS, IS MINIMAL AND THE CUBANS SEEM TO SPEND LITTLE TIME AT IT.  
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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** CIVIL AVIATION, POLICIES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 04 AUG 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Office:** ACTION EB  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 07 JUL 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <07 JUL 2004 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <08 JUL 2004 by GolinoFR>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** CUBAN AIRLINE'S BARBADOS OPERATION  
**TAGS:** PINS, EAIR, BB, CU, AO, CUBANA  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006